

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 12-43, non-elected in the parent application, are now presented for examination.

The specification has been amended as in the parent application.

Also, by this Preliminary Amendment, multiple dependencies have been eliminated from the claims.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to MPEP § 609, Applicants understand that the Examiner will, as part of his examination of this application, consider the art of record in the parent application. A form PTO-1449 is enclosed, citing the art of record in the parent application, but, pursuant to MPEP § 609, no new copies of such art are provided; should the Examiner wish to have such submitted, however, Applicants will gladly do so upon request.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. applications:

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>
09/513,129	2/25/00	2821
09/513,117	2/25/00	2879
09/512,360	2/24/00	2879

A copy each cited application is attached.

U.S. Patent No. 6,034,478 issued from Application No. 08/614,894, of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,034,478 is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,246,168 issued from Application No. 08/508,931, of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,246,168 is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,267,636 issued from Application No. 09/248,102, of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,267,636 is enclosed.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0041490 is a published version of Application No. 09/809,055, of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0041490 is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,384,925 issued from Application No. 08/845,767, of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,384,925 is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,409,563 issued from Application No. 09/511,386, of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,409,563 is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,416,374 issued from Application No. 09/153,883 of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,416,374 is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,617,773 issued from Application No. 09/454,963, of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,617,773 is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,633,118 issued from Application No. 09/513,135, of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,663,118 is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,642,649 issued from Application No. 09/513,133, of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,642,649 is enclosed.

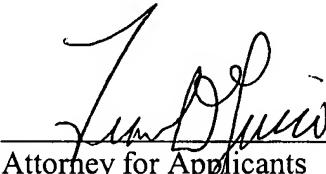
U.S. Patent No. 6,492,769 issued from Application No. 09/471,191, of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/788,411. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,492,769 is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue are respectfully requested, as is return of an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 to confirm that the art cited herein has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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